NEWS
Soperton, Georgia
July 19, 1962

Rolfe's First Tobacco Crop Had Far-Reaching Effects

1005150605

John Rolfe, the Jamestown colonist whose first tobacco crop in 1612 saved the settlement and launched the tobacco industry in the U. S., lived to know that his enterprise was a success.

Neither Rolfe nor his contemporaries, however, could have imagined how far-reaching the consequences would be.

During May, at Jamestown Festival Park in Virginia, the 350th anniversary of Rolfe's first crop is being commemorated by the Jamestown Foundation, with government and industry leaders on hand.

The ceremonies will highlight the fact that America literally began at Jamestown.

Failure was nearly the story at Jamestown during its first five years of starvation, exhausion and despair. The colonists needed a salable product of commerce to survive.

Rolfe's tobacco provided the means for survival. It was a great turning point in history. For Jamestown's success proved development of the New World possible.

Jamestown was a thriving, tobacco-growing community when the Pilgrims, who were actually heading for the Jamestown area, landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. By this time, the Jamestown settlers had taken the first steps toward creation of the vast English-speaking world of today. The general assembly of Virginia had met in 1619. Rolfe was a member. By the time of Rolfe's death in 1622, the crop was the economic staff of life to the colonies.

Over the years, the need for tobacco land helped push back the forests and create new settlements.

Today tobacco is a $7.5 billion a year industry in the U. S., returning $3.1 billion in excise taxes. It is our fourth largest agricultural exported.

The industry that John Rolfe started has grown with the nation.

Tobacco News

COURIER
Connelsville, Pennsylvania
July 19, 1962

Pocahontas, Rolfe Have Million Descendants

The names of Pocahontas and John Rolfe are known to every child who studies history in school. But few people are probably aware that today there are possibly more than a million descendants of the Indian princess. According to information furnished by the Tobacco News, official publication of The Tobacco Institute, Inc., that is an amazing fact.

In the May issue it said, in part:

When John Rolfe married Pocahontas it was the first union between an English gentleman and a "savage" Indian. Today genealogists estimate there may be over a million living descendants. Most of them probably aren't aware of their noted ancestors. But those who know are proud of it.

Representing the descendants at May's 350th anniversary celebration was Miss Pocahontas, 1962. She was Catherine Barnes of Martinsville, Va., an 11th generation descendant.

Some of the descendants became famous: Lady Astor, the Virginia-born English politician; the late Mrs. Woodrow Wilson; and the late Lady Mountbatten, an aunt of Prince Philip.

Four of the living descendants bear the name Pocahontas; there's one named Matoaka, Pocahontas' tribal name. And there is one whose first name is Rolfe. The heritage of Rolfe and Pocahontas continues through a long line of descendants, which includes some of the best known family names in the south.

1005150605 A

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/fgyk0000